

Friday Feb. 16, 2024 7pm

License Testing 5:30pm

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U.S. Navy Captain, Jet Fighter Pilot and NASA Astronaut Victor Glover, KI5BKC

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

SO YOU WANT TO WORK ON REPEATERS?

By Jim Aspinwall, NO1PC



Jim built his first VHF repeater from a converted Motorola T43GGV in 1971, a year after he was first licensed as Novice class WN9GVF. After moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1989, he became active in the local amateur radio FM repeater scene. He has held the callsign NO1PC since 2013 and currently serves as the president of Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC), the

amateur radio coordinating organization for repeaters on 29 MHz and higher in Northern California. Jim's goal is to foster more skills in repeater system creation and maintenance, literally, from the ground up.



*Our in-person meeting will also be held virtually, via the Zoom video system. The meeting access ID and password will be distributed via groups.io email announcement. The meeting will also be shown on the club digital amateur television repeater, which is live streamed at: <http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org/> and also live streamed on YouTube on the **Media MDARC** channel.*



We have many accomplished and experienced club members. After all, we are an ARRL Special Service Club! The club is looking for amateur radio or communications topics that you or someone you know could present at a future club meeting.

An alternative might be several short presentations on different topics made by multiple persons.

Please direct your suggestions to our Programs Chair Charles M. King, K3CMK, at chask1234.ck@gmail.com.

Your contribution is vital for the continued success of MDARC. We are eager to hear from you!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FREE CLUB E-MAIL GROUP AT:

<https://groups.io/g/MDARC>

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730 info@mdarc.org

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
Vice President - Ed Morales, KJ6KYT
Secretary - Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Treasurer - Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Emergency Coordinator - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

Directors At Large
 Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Cal Vasquez, K6VT
 Mark Fehlig WA6NGC Mike Warren, W6MEW

Membership Chair - Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

PACIFICON 2024

Chair: Julie Mah, WJ8MAH
Registration: Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Treasurer: Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Secretary: Jeff Mah, N8MAH

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Annual Auction - **vacant**
Communications Trailer - Mike Warren, W6MEW
Communications Van MDARC-1 - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Digital Media - Grant Bowman, K6CBK
Education & Training - **vacant**
Field Day - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Good & Welfare - Diana Sage, KA6TZU
Holiday Dinner - Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Outreach - Dick Wade, WM6G
Programs - **vacant**
Public Service - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Radio Equipment Lending - Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Refreshments - Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Scholarship - Janice Fujii, KG6VTD
Technical Committee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Volunteer Classes - Dick Wade, WM6G
W6CX Repeater Trustee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
W6LGW Callsign Trustee - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

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President's Message



MDARC FAMILY...

You know what February means? It means that public service events are just around the corner, so I invite you to take a look on www.mdarc.org to see what MDARC has scheduled.

What you say? Why do public service events? Many of us were attracted to amateur radio for its use in

emergency situations. We might participate in drills to hone our skills, but many of these drills are highly scripted. Participating in public service events continues to develop your communication skills by adding a component of spontaneity. That is, being able to think on your feet, assess the situation, and clearly communicate to net control. Of course there are all those beautiful areas to visit and to learn to operate in sometimes inhospitable environments.

So now is time to look over these public service opportunities and make a list or write them on your calendar. Some, like me, participate in public service events from several local clubs. Therefore, making a list of the offerings allows me to prioritize the events I prefer and at the same time avoid “double booking.” Since I am an Excel “kinda guy,” I utilize Excel’s Conditional Formatting function to identify duplicate dates. Making the decision which event to participate in can be a tough choice.

Group	Date	Day	Event	Month	Day
MDARC	03/02/24	Saturday	Revel Half Marathon on Mt. Diablo	March	
MDARC/LARC	03/03/24	Sunday	Livermore Half Marathon	March	
MDARC	03/17/24	Sunday	Oakland Running Festival	March	
MDARC	04/06/24	Saturday	Diablo Trail Challenge	April	
MARS	04/06/24	Saturday	MARS public service kickoff	April	
MDARC	04/13/24	Saturday	Cinderella Bike Ride	April	
MARS	04/13/24	Saturday	Ridge to Bridge	April	
MDARC	04/23/24	Tuesday	MS Walk in Heather Farm Park	April	
MARS	04/27/24	Saturday	Fault Line Jane Fondo	April	
MDARC	04/27/24	Saturday	Berkeley Hills Road Race	April	

As you prepare your public service list, this is also a good time to check that your equipment is working. I recommend having at least two handy-talkies (HTs) available, one is your go-to HT, the other is a backup. Of course, it is important that each HT is programmed with the repeater and simplex frequencies you will be expected to use. Making sure that your HTs and spare batteries are fully charged is a definite must. Having a “cheat sheet” showing how to perform the basic functions of each HT can be a lifesaver, or at least an embarrassment eliminator. I recently was embarrassed when I had to fumble around to figure out how to turn off the auto-shift feature on my Kenwood HT. Not a comfortable feeling?

Ode to the venerable Morse Code. Not exactly an ode, but Morse Code was recently brought to mind while I was listening to the audible.com version of *The Martian: A Novel* by Andy Weir. Here is an excerpt from the Kindle edition:

Mark Watney is saying to his Log.....

In “other news, I’m learning Morse code. Why? Because it’s our backup communications system. NASA figured a decades-old probe isn’t ideal as a sole means of communication. If Pathfinder craps out, I’ll spell messages with rocks, which NASA will see with satellites. They can’t reply, but at least we’d have one-way communication. Why Morse code? Because making dots and dashes with rocks is a lot easier than making letters.”

“It’s a #!%# way to communicate. Hopefully it won’t come up.”

(continued on following page)

I think we can all agree that there has been a resurgence in learning or relearning Morse Code. Now I am one of those “Johnny come lately” hams that got their first ticket after Morse Code was no longer required. Some may not agree, but I think this was a boon for amateur radio prompting many to get their Technician Class license. My first experience with CW was in Boy Scouts when it was a requirement to get your First Class rank.* I remember struggling with it and finally used one of those teaching devices that used a light for dits and dots. After going to bed, I would hide under the covers so as not to alert my parents that I was not going to sleep, and practice until I was able to “pass the test.” I will be the first to say that I did not really learn Morse Code. But with the resurgence of CW interest, many have been availing themselves with a program offered by the Long Island CW Club and several of our club members have been learning Morse Code through their program. I believe there will be a presentation at an upcoming General Membership Meeting to discuss the program.

A book that was recommended to me and may be of interest to aspiring CW enthusiasts is *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* by Carlo Consoli.

Maybe you are one of those members who replied back to my email poll (aka “finger in the wind”) regarding the possible relocating of our monthly General Membership from Lafayette to Clayton. Well, the Board decided to remain at Our Savior Lutheran Church where we’ve been meeting for 33 years and have had a good relationship

“The greatest motivational act one person can do for another is to listen.” Roy E. Moody

73,
Larry Bradley, KK6QPE

*For more information when Morse Code was/was not a requirement in the Boy Scouts, check out this link:
<https://observer.wunderwood.org/2016/02/22/history-of-morse-code-in-the-bsa/>



KJ6KYT Appointed Vice President

After two years, we now have a Vice President! Last year, the membership approved a change to the MDARC Bylaws to allow the Board to appoint a person to fill a vacancy on the Board. So, at the February Board Meeting the Board approved the appointment of past president Ed Morales, KJ6KYT who agreed to take on the responsibility.

Thank you, Ed! Larry Bradley, KK6QPE

(Photo by Mike Warren, W6MEW)

Approved MDARC 2024 Budget

Total MDARC Income	27,730
Total MDARC Expenses	34,045
Balance	(6,315)

Total PacifiCon Income	70,000
Total PacifiCon Expenses	57,050
Balance	12,950

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Membership Renewal (Jan 1- Dec 31)

Date: _____ Call (or SWL): _____ License Class: ☐ E ☐ A ☐ G ☐ T ☐ N

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Your E-mail: _____

Spouse or Partner's Name: _____ Spouse or Partner's Call (or SWL): _____

Spouse or Partner's Unique E-mail: _____

Circle any phone numbers or e-mail address above that you do NOT want listed in the club roster.

Please note, we take care to ensure that member information is never used for non-club or commercial purposes.

Note: You may add a maximum of 3 Family Members at the same address. Attach page with details for this.

Additional Information

- Membership Card: If you would like to have a new membership card mailed to you please send a SASE to the Membership Chair, Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 23222, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-0222
- Are you an ARRL member? This is important to maintain MDARC's Special Service Club status with ARRL.
☐ ARRL Member ☐ ARRL Life Member

Gift Membership

If you would like to give this membership as a gift to someone else, please fill in the above personal information with the recipient's information; and the below with your own information. In the instructions, please tell us when we may advise the recipient of his/her membership, and if you want this to be anonymous.

Gift-giver's Name: _____ Gift-giver's Callsign (if any) _____

Gift-giver's contact information (e-mail or phone no.): _____

Instructions: _____ ☐ Anonymous

Fees

MDARC DUES for Individual or Family membership at the same address: This includes the electronic Carrier newsletter emailed monthly	\$45.00	\$
Student membership: (Full-time student, 24yr old max) This includes the electronic Carrier newsletter emailed monthly	\$15.00	\$
Carrier Newsletter: Optional <u>Paper</u> Copies & Mailing – Additional cost for <u>paper</u> copies and monthly mailing. It does NOT include the Directory – contact Membership.	\$18.00	\$
Repeater Support Donation – Help us keep your repeaters on the air with \$5 to \$50?		\$
Total:		\$

Please make your check payable to MDARC and mail to:

MDARC
PO BOX 23222
PLEASANT HILL, CA 94523-0222

MDARC Telephone: 925-288-1730

INFO@MDARC.ORG

Office Use Only

Date	ID#	\$	Ck#	Intls

OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MDARC.ORG

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ek0lddlbc68f1cab&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Rev 2020-12-15

MDARC W6CX LEAP DAY NET

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2024

On Thursday February 29, 2024, instead of the MDARC regular net we will be having a special net to celebrate “LEAP DAY”. The last time LEAP DAY fell on Thursday was in 1996 (probably with Jay Caldis, KT6Y, as net control) **and the next LEAP DAY that falls on a Thursday will be in 2052 (28 years between leap day falling on a Thursday)**. For some of us this may be a once-in a lifetime net. Planning has not been completed yet, but I anticipate that we will start ECHOLINK (W6CX-C) out of area check-ins at 7pm and start on-air repeater check-ins at 7:30 (W6CX 147.06+ PL is 100) and go until we run out of hams checking in.



I could use the help of a couple more people to do logging.

Updates will be in the February *CARRIER*, on the MDARC.ORG website, at HRO and in the ARRL EASTBAY SECTION newsletter. —

——— *Lauren Styles, WA6CIE*



The Board discussed and voted on the proposal to relocate MDARC’s General Membership Meetings from Lafayette to Clayton. Although it was not unanimous, the Board decided to continue meeting at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lafayette.

Stats: Approximately 380 emails were sent to get the “pulse” of the membership and 10% responded with their location preference.

Although a very small sample of the membership, the results were almost split between the two with Lafayette slightly greater.

Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

George Coughlin, KK6LRU

John Rio, KO6CYV

Thomas Stephens (license pending)

Kole Kiyoi, KO6CES

Mark Walsh, KM6XU

If you hear these new members on the air, please welcome them to our club.

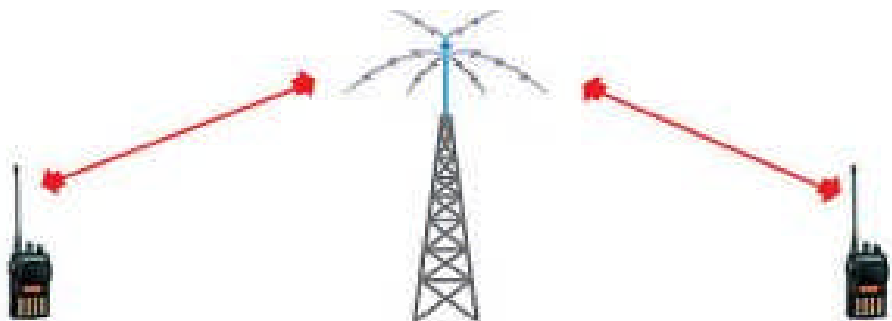
----- *Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC, Membership Chair*

W6CX Repeater System Survey!

Your thoughts matter!

Our club's Technical Committee would like to know how you have interacted with the W6CX repeater system in the last 2 months.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/g72Ta6uEoUor7Dsw9>



Rai\$ing Money for MDARC

By Rich Lueck, K6REL

MDARC like other non-profit organizations, is constantly trying to raise money. As you know, in the world we live in, that's harder than ever.



(Photo by K6REL)

So here's an easy funding source for MDARC plus a tax benefit for member donors. Perhaps you didn't know MDARC is a partner of the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise and Lamorinda Rotary Clubs vehicle donation program www.Cars2ndChance.com - Cars2nd-Chance accepts donations with title running or not. Cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, RV's, even the depicted Tesla electric truck....

The Rotary program is run entirely by volunteers so the money raised goes to our charity 501(c)(3) partners split 50/50.

We *don't* pay for annoying jingles on TV or radio commercials. Our admin costs ARE NOT 85% of the donations (leaving what's left for recipients).

A lot of people are discovering during shelter in place they have extra vehicles. Here's how it works: *First find the vehicles title paperwork.* (You do have to own the vehicle even though you would like to donate the neighbor's dead car that's been on their front lawn for 5 years.) ;>)

Go to www.Cars2ndChance.com Enter your name and email address and click Next.... From the Orange drop down select MDARC then complete the vehicle information. Please fill in each field completely. The form is secure and we do not share your personal information. Upon receipt, we will process your form according to the order received. Please allow 2 to 3 business days for processing. Upon acceptance, we will contact you to arrange a convenient pick up time. There is no fee for towing your vehicle, running or not. This program is both in San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere.

Cars2ndChance contact number: 925-326-5868



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Revel Half Marathon on Mt. Diablo (SEE FOLLOWING PAGE)

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Run Down Mt. Diablo

Radio Coordinator: stevedono18@gmail.com

<https://www.runrevel.com/rmd>

Livermore Half Marathon – Running Race

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Running Race from-to Downtown Livermore

Radio Coordinator: George Moorhead, KG6GEM, kg6wiu1@comcast.net

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Livermore/LivermoreValleyHalf>

Oakland Running Festival

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Running Race in Downtown Oakland

Radio Coordinator: Mike Pompa KB6MP, mpompa@gmail.com

<https://www.ww6or.com/oakland-marathon-signup>

Diablo Trails Challenge - Running Race

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Running race from Castle Rock Park, Walnut Creek

Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer KI6LNB, larryloomer@yahoo.com

Brazen Racing <https://brazenracing.com/diablotrailschallenge>

Cinderella Bike Ride – in Livermore

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Ladies' Bike Ride around Livermore

Radio Coordinator: George Moorhead, KG6GEM, kg6wiu1@comcast.net

<https://www.valleyspokesmen.org/>



MDARC PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT



Saturday, March 2, 2024, will be the date for the first MDARC Public Service Event of this year.

It is called the REVEL Half Marathon on Mt. Diablo. What is different about the REVEL runs is that they start at the top of a mountain and run down the mountain to the Finish Line.

Our race will start at the summit of Mt. Diablo, go down Summit Road, go down Northgate Road and onto Oak Grove Road, turn right onto Arbolado Drive, and finish at Arbolado Park.

There will be water stations along the route to keep the runners hydrated. A ham communicator will be stationed at each water station to relay important communications to Net Control, who will be in contact with the race organizer via another ham.

Steve Donovan, WB6SAI, an MDARC member, is the lead ham for this event.

If you would like to join the MDARC hams in support of this event, contact Steve, stevedono18@gmail.com, and ask to be put on the team roster for the event.

MDARC has never participated in a race DOWN the mountain before. It will be interesting to see how such a race is set up and operated right here in our own back yard. As hams, we would like to contribute to the success of the race down the mountain, and will be doing so by providing situational awareness to the race organizer and emergency communication for the safety of the participants.

Come and join us and be a part of this first-of-a-kind race on our mountain. Contact Steve to sign up.

— **Larry Loomer, KI6LNB**

 **36°F**HIGH: 44°F at 03:05 PM
LOW: 32°F at 03:05 AM

Wind: 10 mph NW High gust 20 mph @ 05:27 AM

Rain: 0.00 in Seasonal Total 2.15 in

Humidity: 93% Feels like 30°F

Barometer: 30.09 in Hg Steady

Conditions as of: 06:32 PM Friday, Feb 09, 2024 / Vantage Vue, Wireless via WLL

Shop Weather Stations at www.davisinstruments.com

In October 2023, our club installed a Davis [VantageVue](#) weather station was at the Mount Diablo North Peak repeater site. The real time readings are shown above in the [signature](#) format. With an iframe and these [instructions](#) you can display the information on any website. The three other formats for displaying the weather data are [wide](#) vertical, [slim](#) vertical and [fullscreen](#).

The weather data shown above is visible at: <https://www.mdarc.org/repeater-systems/wx>

The weather information is also reported and displayable via aprs.fi and noaa.gov. Check out www.mdarc.org/operating-aids/weather-channels for information on the continuous NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts on 162.425 MHz FM from a transmitter on Mount Diablo.



Want to help the National Weather Service by reporting weather? Become a NOAA / NWS Skywarn Spotter! Listen to and/or check in with your weather at 7pm Wednesday evenings on the club's 147.060+ FM repeater.



Novice Rig Round-Up



Novice Rig Roundup 2024 will be held March 2, 2024 00:00 to March 10, 2024 23:59 UTC

Novice Rig Roundup (NRR) is an annual 9-day operating event celebrating the old Novice type equipment, and operating restrictions, of over 60 years ago. Each March we put our nostalgic stations on the air to make contacts with each other, and anyone else that cares to join in. NRR is focused on the days of 75 watts input at the plate and crystal controlled transmitters - however, ALL stations are welcome.

More information at: <https://novicerigroundup.org/>

Passing of Gary Gilley, WA6UXA



Gary passed away suddenly on January 23, 2024, age 68. He was a long-standing member of our club's "5:42am Net" and a much loved amateur radio operator all over Northern California. He was known for his pet ducks and frequently sent them on 'special missions' and such. Gary loved Amateur Radio and brought several "newbies" into the hobby as well as always being a participant in many on the air events and public service activations. His on air "smiling voice" will be missed.

—— Jim Marchetti, KD7G



(Photos from WA6UXA QRZ.com page)

In Memory Of Our Silent Keys

**My chair is sitting empty.
My call's no longer heard
My radio rests quietly.
From it comes no words.
On my shack door is a message.
That reads "From Me to Thee"
My frequency's much higher now
I've become a Silent Key**

Author: Judy Hudson, KC9CCJ



MDARC General Meeting Minutes November 17, 2023

Held as hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by MDARC Director at Large Larry Bradley KK6QPE.
a. Welcome to all: Larry KK6QPE welcomed all attendees and indicated the positions of the emergency exits and restrooms.

b. Pledge of Allegiance: This was made by attendees.

c. Acknowledge new members: There were no new members in attendance.

d. Acknowledge visitors: Visitors were acknowledged.

2. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting: The October 2023 minutes were approved.

3. Officer Reports:

a. President: Ed KJ6KYT was in attendance on Zoom and reported that he had been in contact with the South Peak Landlord and that he felt confident that a more favorable contract will be achieved.

b. Vice President: Vacant.

c. Secretary: Brian KM6NGS had no report.

d. Treasurer: Larry stated that the treasurer's report for October was included, as an attachment, to the meeting and announced the numbers as follows: Net Income (\$7801.80), Total MDARC Checking and Savings \$55,446.07, Equipment Self Insurance Fund \$61,777.01, Pacificon Checking Account Balance \$63,636.18, Total Account Balances \$180,859.26. Larry advised that anybody with questions about the numbers should contact the treasurer directly.

e. Emergency Coordinator: Larry KI6LNB had no report.

f. Directors at Large: Mike W6MEW, Trevor WA6JAU, and Larry KK6QPE had nothing to report. Cal K6VT was not present.

4. Committee Reports – Standing:

a. Auction: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

b. Communications Trailer: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

c. Digital Media: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

d. Education and Training: John Primus AF6RJ sent his report by email.

e. Election: Larry announced that Dick WM6G had tallied all votes received so far and that it was still possible to vote, in person by paper ballot and on Zoom by sending a message to the election committee by private chat. Dick showed the Ballot on-screen and gave instructions on how to fill it out, both in person and on Zoom. After the voting period had elapsed, Dick thanked everybody for running and then announced the results. President Larry Bradley KK6QPE with 80 votes, Vice President no candidate, Secretary Brian Lotter KM6NGS with 81 votes, Treasurer Barbara Whysong K6WHY with 83 votes, Emergency Coordinator Larry Loomer KI6LNB with 78 votes, Director at Large Trevor Hall WA6JAU with 70 votes, Director at Large Mark Fehlig WA6NGC with 46 votes. Dick thanked Michael Papp KO6AGA for running for a director at Large position. Michael received 39 votes and was therefore unsuccessful.

f. Field Day: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

g. Holiday Banquet: Larry announced that the holiday banquet will be at Zio Fraedo's on December 10th at 6pm, and that one can register and select their choice of entree on the MDARC website.

h. License Testing: Larry KI6LNB announced that there were 2 Technician, 4 General and 2 Amateur Extra candidates. All passed their exams.

i. MDARC-1 (Van): Report not scheduled or unavailable.

j. Membership: Jan KM6NFC reported the numbers as follows; Paying members 282, All current members 342, New members 54, Renewals, last 30 days, 19, Members who haven't renewed yet 66.

k. Mesh Committee: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

l. Outreach: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

m. PACIFICON: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

n. Programs: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

(continued on following page)

- o. Public Service: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
- p. Radio Lending Library: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
- q. Rocky Ridge Repeater: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

5. Unfinished Business:

- a. South Peak was covered in 3 a. above.

6. New Business:

None.

7. Adjourn Business Meeting: The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Brian Lotter, KM6NGS Secretary, on December 12, 2023.

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting January 8, 2024

Held at Zoom online

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Larry Bradley, KK6QPE after it was determined that there was a quorum for conducting Club business.

2. Roll Call: Attendees via Zoom screen shot:

Officers: Larry Bradley KK6QPE, President; Brian Lotter KM6NGS, Secretary; Barbara Whysong K6WHY, Treasurer; Larry Loomer KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator; Mike Warren W6MEW, Director at Large; Trevor Hall WA6JAU, Director at Large; Mark Fehlig WA6NGC, Director at Large.

Committee Chairs/Coordinator: Mike N6JGA; Jan KM6NFC; Grant K6CBK; Jim K6SOE.

Guests: Mike Patterson N6JGA; Ed Morales KJ6KYT; Gene Sylls KG6EYE; Dave WA6UHA; Greg Estep KE6VTA; Benjo Sevilla KA6BJS; Miriam KJ6ULT.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: The minutes of the December 4th meeting and Version 3 of the December 15th special meeting were approved.

4. Adopt Tonight's Agenda: The agenda was approved.

5. Officer reports:

- a. President Larry Bradley KK6QPE – Said that he is glad to be back in the chair again.

- b. Vice-President (Vacant) – Vacant.

- c. Secretary Brian Lotter KM6NGS – Had no report.

- d. Treasurer Barbara Whysong K6WHY – Was not present at this time so Gene Sylls KG6EYE stated that he had sent his report to the Board by email. Larry KK6QPE noted that it was nice to see that there was a positive balance on the final report for 2023 and that anybody could contact Gene directly if they had any questions. There was further discussion on the Pacificon numbers and this was deferred to the budget discussion later in this meeting. **At this point, Mike W6MEW shared his screen which showed the December report (SEE FOLLOWING PAGE)**

6. Emergency Coordinator Report: Larry KI6LNB had no report.

7. Directors at large reports:

Mike Warren W6MEW – Had no report.

(continued on following page)

TOTAL CLUB ACTIVITY			
	MDARC	Pacificon	TOTAL
Income	5,590.89	0.00	5,590.89
Expense	2,107.73	486.73	2,594.46
Net Income	3,483.16	(486.73)	2,996.43

ACCOUNTS			
MDARC Checking Account Balance	26,932.09		
MDARC Savings Account Balance	28,418.38		
Total MDARC Checking & Savings			55,350.47
Equipment Self-Insurance Fund			62,208.18
PACIFICON Checking Account Balance			25,896.15
Total Account Balances			143,454.80

Trevor Hall WA6JAU – Trevor reported that he will be paying the \$20 NARCC dues this week

Mark Fehlig WA6NGC – Mark's report was discussed in section 10.4 below.

Cal Vasquez K6VT – Was not present.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Auction: Vacant.

b. Communications Trailer: Mike W6MEW had no report other than that Larry KI6LNB has applied for the new annual Parking Permit. The cost is expected to be approx. \$11.

c. Digital Media: Grant K6CBK stated that he has updated the website and asked for submissions to be emailed to admin@mdarc.org. Larry confirmed that he had asked Grant to add new Board members and Chairs to mdarc-staff@groups.io. Grant added that the messages under MDARCBoard@groups.io and mdarcstaff@groups.io are

archived and can therefore be accessed.

f. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE noted that John AF6RJ retired from the chair position at the end of 2023. Larry will take over the task of chair and continue with the work that he has been doing. He would welcome a volunteer to take over the Chair position.

g. Election Committee: No report was expected.

h. Field Day: Larry KK6QPE mentioned that Carrier Editor Matthew G. Vurek N4DLA had questioned the expense for food for Field Day. The conclusion was that Field day is one of only two social gatherings that we have each year where we also see club members that don't attend any other meetings and that it was a reasonable expense.

i. Holiday Banquet: No report.

j. License Testing: Larry KI6LNB had nothing new to report.

k. Membership: Jan KM6NFC shared his screen with the 2023 membership numbers. Paying members, 298; All members, 363; New members this year, 63; Renewals last 30 days, 89; Past due 58; Lifetime + Honorary members, 12. He then showed the report for January 2024. Paying members, 160; All members, 200; New members this year, 4; Renewals last 30 days, 115; Past due 143; Lifetime + Honorary members, 12. Larry asked that Jan report names of new members at the board meetings so that board members could acknowledge them and make them feel welcome at meetings. Jan noted that new member's names are published in the carrier. Jan also stated that members can see their own information on the membership portal and change what information will be shown in the directory but only board members have access to the directory. He asked if he should allow all users of the membership portal to see the membership directory. It was agreed that members should be able to view and search the directory.

l. Mesh Committee: Mike W6MEW had nothing new to report. Larry KK6QPE reported that he had attended a MARS holiday party where he was able to choose a door prize which was from the North Bay Amateur MESH Network. It is a case which contains a complete mobile rig and includes two nodes an Evolve laptop, all battery powered. Larry concluded that we now have another MESH tool in the East Bay arsenal.

m. Outreach: Dick Wade WM6G was not present.

n. PACIFICON: Julie WJ8MAH was not present and there was no report.

o. Programs: No report was expected.

p. Public Service: Larry KI6LNB reported that there are ten public service events already on the roster for 2024 and that he has submitted them for publication in The Carrier. Larry KK6QPE asked him to also submit them to Grant for publication on the website.

q. Radio Lending Library: There was no report from Cal, K6VT.

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r. Rocky Ridge Repeater (Tech): Jim K6SOE reported that they had been on South peak and run TDR tests on the receive antenna and the cables. The conclusion was that either the antenna or a jumper was faulty. Since the antenna is over 35 years old, it was decided that it should also be replaced since the repair costs will be \$3,500.00 anyway and a new antenna will cost \$800.00. Larry asked him to submit the numbers to Barb for the budget. Jim was instructed to put \$800.00 on the repair/replace/maintenance line of the budget and \$3500.00 on the labor line of the budget.

s. Scholarship: No report was expected.

9. Future Meetings:

General Meeting 01/19/2024 Board Meeting 02/05/2024 on Zoom only.

10. Unfinished Business:

10.1 Approval of 2024 Budget: It was not possible to proceed with this approval because there were outstanding items. Larry asked Gene to work with Julie and Barb to finalize the numbers for Pacificon before Feb 5 which is the date of the next Board Meeting. This needs to be done by February 5 because the budget needs to be published in the February *Carrier*, at latest, according to the MDARC by-laws.

10.2 South Peak Contract & Move to North Peak: Ed KJ6KYT said that the contract is being circulated for signatures and that the \$1,500.00 fee will need to be paid. Mike W6MEW seconded by Trevor WA6JAU, proposed a motion to pay the \$1,500.00 California Parks and Recreation fee via Everest as required. The motion was approved. Ed added that Everest had approved our existing insurance levels.

10.3 Status report on revising Membership database for processing and tracking payments, new payment gateway status: Jan shared a page showing the Payment Gateway Subcommittee Meeting Notes which is on Google Drive. Jan KM6NFC concluded that we will at least, break even on costs. The next step is to implement a test plan. The next meeting will be a week from next Thursday and Jan will publish the exact date.

10.4 Alternate General Meeting locations: Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church; Rossmoor Succession Plan requirement: Larry Loomer had offered the Clayton Valley Presbyterian church facilities, at no cost, and Mark Fehlig had offered the facilities at Rossmoor. Mark reported that there is a lot of internal politics that will prevent our use of Rossmoor at this time. Larry Loomer reported that the facilities are signed up for us already but that we would need to move our meeting dates if we insist on using the hall instead of the sanctuary. We still need a succession plan if Larry Loomer leaves the Clayton Valley Presbyterian church for any reason. Larry polled the attendees and did not find a strong consensus for the move. The biggest drawback is due to the Friday night traffic on Ygnacio Valley road. Larry will poll the members to find what the membership thinks.

10.5 Auction Chair: We still need to find an Auction chair.

10.6 Program Chair: Larry KK6QPE reminded the meeting that it is now possible for the Board to appoint somebody to this position without having to wait for an election cycle at the end of 2024. Ed added that he doesn't see any reason why he could not be Vice President remotely. He did not commit to this but suggested that the Board could consider this possibility.

11. New Business:

11.1 Vice President: This was covered under Program Chair above.

11.2 Education and Training Chair: Larry stated he will "hold this down for now".

11.3 Auction 4/20 or 4/13 or 4/27 all Saturdays: Larry said that the auction could be held on these dates at the Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church as previously discussed with Larry KI6LNB. Larry added that he would like to have an auction this year but limit it to "no junk".

11.4 Membership meeting 6/21 day before Field Day 6/22: After some discussion, Mike W6MEW seconded by Barbara K6WHY proposed a motion that we forego the General Meeting on 6/21 due to Field Day on 6/22. The motion was approved.

11.4 MDARC Store: This was added so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

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12. Good of the order:

Jim K6SOE added that there will be a show and tell at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for groups that use the facilities. There will be a table for each participant and the opportunity for a 10-minute talk. It was decided that the Van would be used for a show and tell. Lauren will be running a Leap Day Net on February 29 and invites all Bay Area Hams to check in that night. It was last run 25 years ago by Jay Caldis KT6Y. Mike N6JGA will post the information in his News Letter. Larry KK6QPE asked Jim to advise N4DLA that the 8 pm ATV net will probably be delayed because of this event.

Mike W6MEW showed his screen with a Geochron Map on it. The map is customizable and shows a lot of information which is very useful to Hams. The company that produces it is called inovato (inovato.com). Mike added that there is a free version for Windows that is called Simon's world map.

Ed KJ6KYT mentioned that Dave Piersall N6ORB is retiring and they are looking for someone to take over the nets that he has served so well over many years.

13. Adjournment:

Mike W6MEW, seconded by Trevor WA6JAU, proposed a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:54 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Brian Lotter KM6NGS

Secretary, February 1, 2024.

These meeting minutes were signed digitally due to the digital meeting.



ESTATE SALE

Astron VS-35M 2 to 15 volts 35 amp power supply \$160

Astron RS-35M 35 amp power supply \$180

Kenwood IF-232C computer interface \$20

Kenwood TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver \$800

Kenwood TS-450S HF Transceiver \$450

Kenwood PS-52 20 amp power supply \$180

Kenwood SP-23 external speaker for TS-450 \$100

Yaesu G-800DXA rotator controller only (no rotator) \$80

Diamond MX-72H HF-VHF/UHF Duplexer \$30

Vibroplex Keyer \$90 McElroy semi-automatic telegraph key \$150

**Reasonable offers for any of the above considered. Contact:
Kim Leong, N6YJ, 925-575-1941 or n6yj.qth@gmail.com**

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Peak and watch the over the air repeater signal on your video monitor**

**Please contact Will Roberts at ka3vdt@gmail.com or visit
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**To purchase a DATV transmitter, contact Fred Coe, WB6ASU, at
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- Front Firing Acoustically Enhanced Speaker System • True Dual Band Operation, C4FM/C4FM Digital D-D Dual Receive • 2.4" High-Resolution Full-Color Touch Panel Display • Built-in High Precision GPS Receiver • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Headset



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FT-891 | HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

- Stable 100 Watt Output • 32-Bit IF DSP • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable • CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control



FTM-300DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 50W Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation • Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WIRES-X Portable Digital Mode/Fixed Mode with HRI-200



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- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



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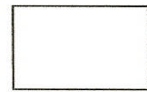
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FIRST CLASS

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W6CX Nets

M-F 5:42 am Morning Muster 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

M-F 6:10am Commuter Net 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

Tuesday 8:00pm Digital Practice Net 147.060+ 224.78- 441.325+

Wednesday 7:00 pm SKYWARN Net 147.060+

Wednesday 8:00pm Delta Amateur Radio Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Digital Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Club Voice Repeaters

147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz

224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057

DMR Repeater 144.925 offset plus 2.5 MHz color code 1

D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz

<https://w6cx.dstargateway.org/>

DATV Internet Stream: <http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org>

YouTube Channel: [Media MDARC](#)

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets Every Thursday

6:30 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 147.480 Simplex

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.2 PL)

or 147.735-- (107.2 PL)

or 145.410-- (107.2 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

Digital Amateur Television Repeater

Digital ATV Output: 1244.500

Digital ATV Inputs: 1292.500, 1273.0, 917.0, 430.0

Analog ATV Input: 1270.000 FM (PL 192.8)

February and March 2024 Club Calendar

Friday February 16, 2024	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Saturday March 2, 2024	8:00am	MDARC Technical Committee Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Monday March 4, 2024	7:00pm	MDARC Board of Directors Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Friday March 15, 2024	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette